

The Bloody Events in Palestine.

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The Versailles Peace Treaty divided the united Arabian territory of Syria into two parts; Palestine became British mandate territory and Syria proper was handed over to the French. British imperialism demanded Palestine because it was a territory adjacent to the Suez Canal and important for the British in so far as should an insurrection occur in Egypt, Palestine might be used as a basis for the defence of the Suez Canal which is so important for the maintenance of Britain's connections with its colonies, and particularly with India.

In the **Jewish bourgeoisie** in Palestine British imperialism found a willing instrument for the oppression of the Arab working masses. In November 1917 the British Minister Balfour made a "declaration" pledging the British government to establish a "home" in Palestine for the Jews, (read: the Jewish bourgeoisie). With this declaration British diplomacy hoped to win the Jewish bourgeoisie of the belligerent countries, and in particular of America, for the Entente.

During the war the leaders of Zionism organised a so-called Jewish Legion drawn from the bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie; and this legion fought in Gallipoli and in Palestine against the German and Turkish troops. The petty bourgeois youth of Russian Galicia, Poland, Roumania and other countries, swept by a nationalist wave, shed their blood in the conviction that they were fighting for the "future of the Jewish nation".

When British imperialism had achieved its end and obtained the "mandate" over Palestine, it showed no inclination to consider the "ideals and hopes" of the Zionists. From the first day its policy was to direct the bitterness and dissatisfaction of the Arabs, who form the overwhelming majority of the population of Palestine (600,000 Arabs as against 100,000 Jews), against the Jews. The British authorities artificially inflamed the national hatred and the religious fanaticism of the backward Arab masses against the Jews. In 1921, at

the responsibility of the British police, there was a serious anti-Jewish pogrom. British imperialism needed this as an excuse for suppressing the Arab movement and for setting up the long-planned military regime. A severe blow was dealt at Zionism.

Nevertheless the bourgeois and petty bourgeois Zionists continued to colonise the country with Jewish emigrants, chiefly with petty-bourgeois nationalist youths. The main trade union organisation "Histadrut" (Palestine Trade Union Federation) which is affiliated to the Amsterdam International (I. F. T. U.), put forward slogans such as "Win the land to work!", in other words, the State and private factories should employ exclusively Jewish workers, "Win the land!" In other words, all the land in Palestine should go into Jewish hands, etc.

The Zionist organisation carries on a policy directed towards the annexation of Palestine and the violent expropriation of the fellahin (Arab peasants). This policy led to frequent collisions between the Arabs and the Zionists. With the assistance of the British troops and police, the Zionists of course maintained the upper hand. Despite this, Zionism ended during the whole time of its existence as a political movement in establishing only 6,000 Jews as "land-holders".

The miserable result of the Zionist efforts and their comical fiasco can be seen particularly clearly when one compares the progress with the great speed with which the Jewish working class in the Soviet Union are taking up agriculture.

During the last two years serious class differentiation has also been felt in the Arab camp also. This was expressed in the abandonment of the national-revolutionary movement by the bourgeoisie. The "Arabian delegation" which represents the political party of the Arab bourgeoisie, declared itself at the seventh Congress last year for co-operation with British imperialism. The "Arabian delegation" which, up to then, had demanded the "Constitutional Assembly" convened by the British, radically altered its standpoint and demanded of British imperialism a constitution.

The Arab bourgeoisie is very much interested in coming to a compromise with British imperialism, naturally at the expense of the working masses, because it hopes to obtain great

orders (building of a harbour in Haifa which will also have strategic importance because it will be connected with Mosul by a railway, electrical work at the Dead Sea, etc.). On the other hand, the working masses of Palestine, the workers, peasants, impoverished handicraft workers and the propertyless population of the towns are gathering in a special revolutionary camp. The bourgeoisie, of course, wishes to maintain its influence upon the masses. Even now, after its open treachery, the Executive of the so-called Arabian delegation is still attempting to deceive the masses with revolutionary phrases and nationalist slogans. The eyes of the masses, however, have already been opened.

On the 8th June, in connection with the Mahomedan new year, a mass demonstration took place in Jaffa against the sale of lands to the Zionists and against the speculations of Arabian land agents. The Communist Party used the opportunity in order to give the demonstration an anti-imperialist class character. In the streets of Jaffa the shouts sounded: "Down with imperialism! Down with the feudalists and capitalists!" On the 1st August Arab and Jewish workers demonstrated jointly in the towns of Palestine and numerous British and Jewish police agents were injured.

The events in Egypt (in connection with the project of an Anglo-Egyptian agreement) have charged the atmosphere in Palestine. The British wish to transfer the defence of the Suez Canal to Palestine. If one adds that after the formation of the Labour Government the reactionary Zionists adopted a still more provocative attitude, it can be understood how easily the British were able to provoke a collision with the Arabs at the "Wailing Wall". This was the spark which caused the powder barrel to explode. The whole country rose as one man against the Zionist invaders and the British bandits. The masses went onto the streets. The insurrectionaries stormed the barracks and attacked the British troops.

It is difficult to give a complete picture of the events in Palestine. The British censorship mutilates the news of the events. But one thing is clear, and that is that the Arab national-revolutionary movement has taken on the form of an insurrection. And this insurrection will cause a loud echo throughout the whole of the Arabian East.